

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 A-01 OPR-02

SY-05 SCCT-01 OC-05 CCO-00 SAM-01 OMB-01 IO-10 AID-05

CU-02 PC-01 /090 W

----- 045682

P 031232Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6996

INFO AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI PRIORITY

AMCONSUL SONGKHLA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL UDORN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE PRIORITY

DIA WASHDC

COMUSMACHTAI

CINCPAC HON

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 13134

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, TH, US

SUBJ: PLANNED ANTI-AMERICAN DEMONSTRATION FOR JULY 4 - STIREP 6

REF: A) 152784; B) BANGKOK 12943

SUMMARY : TWO DIFFERENT GROUPS STAGED FRIENDLY
DEMONSTRATIONS AT THE EMBASSY AT DIFFERENT TIMES ON JULY 3.
THE PANEL DISCUSSION AT THAMMASAT UNIVERSITY CONTINUES TO
DRAW SMALL CROWDS. ANSWERING A PARLIAMENTARY INTERPELLATION
BROADCAST NATIONALLY JULY 3, INTERIOR MINISTER BUNTHENG
THONGSAWAT REITERATED THE RTG POLICY AGAINST VIOLENCE. THE
SONGKHLA AND CHIANG MAI CONSULATES REPORT THAT LOCAL OFFICIALS
ARE IN CONTROL OF THE SITUATION, AND THAT ANY DEMONSTRATIONS
JULY 4 WILL BE POORLY ATTENDED. END SUMMARY

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AT THE EMBASSY

1. PAN WISUT, LEADER OF THE PEOPLE'S MORALITY PROTECTION GROUP (PMPG), CAME TO THE GATES OF THE EMBASSY WITH FOUR FOLLOWERS AT APPROXIMATELY 1100 HOURS AND PRESENTED TO AN EMBASSY OFFICER A BOUQUET OF FLOWERS AND A LETTER OF APPRECIATION ADDRESSED TO THE AMBASSADOR. SOME OF THE LOCAL PRESS ATTENDED.

2. THE NATIONAL VOCATIONAL STUDENT CENTER OF THAILAND (NVSTC) RALLIED A REPORTED 600 PERSONS AT LUMPINI PARK AND BROUGHT A DEMONSTRATION OF 300 PERSONS TO THE EMBASSY AT 1400 HOURS ALSO TO PRESENT A FRIENDLY LETTER AND BOUQUET. THE LETTER SAID IN PART "WE DO WISH YOUR DEPARTURE (OF MILITARY FORCES) TO BE IN A FRIENDLY SPIRIT AND NOT AS THOUGH YOU WERE AN ENEMY BEING DRIVEN OUT..." "OUR NEIGHBORS FEEL THAT US BASES AND TROOPS ARE A MENACE TO THEIR NATIONAL SECURITY. YOU AND YOUR PEOPLE HAVE RECOGNIZED THE NECESSITY AND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE WITHDRAWAL OF YOUR FORCES. YOUR ACTION WILL OPEN THE DOOR TO PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP IN THIS REGION OF THE WORLD." THE LETTER CONTINUES "THE RECENT ACTIONS OF A MINORITY AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY DO NOT REPRESENT THE FEELINGS OF THE THAI PEOPLE" AND CONCLUDES WITH "ON AMERICA'S NATIONAL DAY WE BRING OUR GOOD WISHES TO YOU AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. WE AFFIRM THE CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES IN BUILDING A SOCIETY OF PEACE, UNITY AND HAPPINESS." UPON POLICE ADVICE THAT A SENIOR MISSION OFFICER RECEIVE THEM, THE DCM ACCEPTED THE TOKENS OF FRIENDSHIP. THIS DEMONSTRATION RECEIVED WIDER PRESS COVERAGE, INCLUDING AMERICAN NEWS SERVICES.

ABOUT BANGKOK

3. SOME 700 TO 800 PEOPLE ATTENDED THE JULY 2 PANEL DISCUSSION AT THAMMASAT UNIVERSITY ON "THE DANGER TO THAILAND FROM U.S. IMPERIALISM." SPEAKERS WERE ANUT APHAPHIROM, EDITOR, VOICE OF YOUTH; NOPPHON SUWANNAPHANIT, SOCIALIST PARTY OF THAILAND (SPT) MEMBERS; AND SUTHEP LAKKHANAWICHIAN, THAMMASAT UNIVERSITY LECTURER. THE SEMINAR TOOK PLACE IN AN OPEN AREA UNDER A LIGHT RAIN.

4. CHAMNI SAKSET, SPT PARLIAMENTARIAN FROM MAKHON SI
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THAMMARAT SUBMITTED AN INTERPELLATION IN PARLIAMENT DURING THE EARLY AFTERNOON OF JULY 3 CONCERNING THE PROPOSED ANTI-AMERICAN DEMONSTRATION JULY 4. INTERIOR MINISTER BUNTHENG THONGSAWAT GAVE THE STANDARD GOVERNMENT REPLY THAT THE RTG DID NOT THINK THERE WOULD BE A DEMONSTRATION; IF VIOLENCE OCCURRED THE RTG WOULD REACT; AND THAT THE RTG DID NOT THINK THERE WOULD BE A COUP JULY 4. THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES ARE BROADCAST NATIONALLY.

UPCOUNTRY

5. THE CHIANG MAI CONSUL REPORTS THAT VOERNOR ASA MEKSAWAN TOLD HIM JULY 3 THAT THE ANTI- AMERICAN STUDENT EXHIBIT AT CHAING MAI UNIVERSITY HAS DRAWN A POOR RESPONSE. FROM THIS AND OTHER REPORTS, THE GOVERNOR CONCLUDES THAT PERHAPS NO MORE THAN 50 STUDENTS WILL DEMONSTRATE JULY 4. ASA INDICATED THAT THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR HAD ISSUED A STRONG MESSAGE ORDERING LOCAL PROTECTION OF AMERICAN OFFICIALS AND PROPERTY.

6. THE SONGKHLA CONSUL REPORTS THAT LOCAL OFFICIALS EXPECT 100 STUDENTS TO APPEAR IN FRONT OF THE CONSULATE JULY 4. CIVILIAN AND POLICE OFFICIALS GIVE ASSURANCES THAT THEY ARE IN CHARGE OF THE SITUATION AND WILL PREVENT VIOLENCE. THE CONSUL CONCLUDES THAT WHILE SOUTHERN STUDENTS ARE GENERALLY DOCILE, THEY FEEL PEER PRESSURE TO EMULATE STUDENTS IN BANGKOK AND THEREFORE ARE COMMITTED TO SOME DEMONSTRATION.

7. WE HAVE INDICATIONS THAT AT LEAST ONE OTHER CONSERVATIVE GROUP WILL MAKE PROTESTATIONS OF FRIENDSHIP AT THE EMBASSY JULY 4. WE ALSO HAVE FRAGMENTARY REPORTS THAT MEMBERS OF THE RTA IN CIVILIAN CLOTHING MAY ATTEMPT TO PROVOKE A CONFRONTATION WITH LEFTIST STUDENT GROUPS OUTSIDE THE THAMMASAT GATES JULY 4. THE LOCAL PRESS CARRIES A STORY THAT A YOUTH PUTTING UP ANTI- AMERICAN POSTERS IN KHORAT WAS KILLED JULY 2.

6. COMMENT. THE POSSIBILITY THEREFORE REMAINS THAT VENTS MIGHT EXACERBATE THE PRESENT RIGHT-LEFT POLARIZATION WE HAVE WITNESSED THE LAST FEW DAYS. NO CONFRONTATION
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SHOULD OCCUR AROUND THE EMBASSY, HOWEVER.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

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